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Foreign Crops and MARKETS



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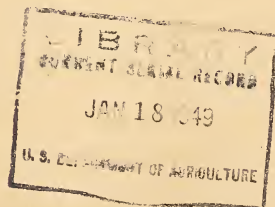
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L A T E N E W S

Canada reports feeder and slaughter cattle exports to the United States for the week ending December 29 at 1,166 head, or a total of 241,380 head since August 16. Beef and veal exports were 2,120,162 pounds, or 83,328,430 pounds since the embargo was lifted.

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A Venezuelan Ministry of Finance resolution dated December 24, 1948, continues the exemption from import duty of beef cattle until June 30, 1949. This exemption was originally granted on September 1, 1948. The requirements of a prior import license, issued by the National Supply Commission is still in force.

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Rice exports from Burma in 1948 totaled 1,356,000 short tons, in terms of milled, compared with a prewar (1935-39) annual average of 3,300,000 tons. World War II caused a drop in Burma's production, and exports in the postwar years 1946 and 1947 were only 15 and 27 percent, respectively, of prewar shipments. Deliveries in 1948 increased to 41 percent of the prewar average.

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Continued dry weather, with only one light snowfall up to January, in the old Kingdom of Rumania has reduced prospects for the winter grain crop, according to a recent cable from Bucharest. Fall-sown crops in the old Kingdom, reported to have no snow cover, and in Transylvania and Moldavia which are believed to have only a light cover, were exposed to freezing or near-freezing temperatures throughout December.

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COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

FATS AND OILSGREEK OILSEED OUTPUT
BELOW PREWAR AVERAGE

Greek oilseed production (excluding olives) during 1948 was 8 percent below the 1947 output and almost 40 percent below the 1935-39 average production, according to a report from the American Embassy, Athens. Harvested areas of the two principal crops, cottonseed and sesame seed, increased somewhat over 1947 areas, but yields were poorer because weather conditions were not so favorable.

Commercial cottonseed production amounted to 22,000 short tons compared with 23,000 in 1947 and the prewar average of 38,800. Yields were reduced by the delay in harvesting brought about by cool summer weather and in some areas by attacks from red spiders.

Almost 8,300 tons of sesame seed were produced against 10,500 tons in 1947 and 11,000, the 1935-39 average. Sesame yields were reduced by hot, dry, windy weather at the beginning of July, when seeds were ripening.

Tobacco-seed production for 1948 is estimated at 3,300 tons, the same as the 1947 outturn but considerably less than the 7,700 tons produced in prewar years. Tobacco seed is considered very good for use in the manufacture of soap and may even be used for cooking when a scarcity of olive oil exists.

Flaxseed output is also estimated at the same as last year's crop, or 98,000 bushels, representing an increase of 25 percent over prewar production.

GREECE: Production of oilseeds (excluding olives), 1948
with comparisons

Year	Cottonseed a/	Sesame seed	Tobacco seed	Flaxseed
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Bushels
Average 1935-39:	38,834	11,133	7,716	78,736
1946 :	24,802	9,370	b/	157,471
1947 :	23,148	10,527	3,307	98,420
1948 :	22,046	8,267	3,307	98,420

a/ Commercial production. b/ Insignificant quantity, if any.
American Embassy, Athens.

Approximately 70 percent of the 1948 cottonseed production will be available for crushing, yielding about 1,850 tons of oil. Over 2,200 tons of cottonseed will be utilized as livestock feed. The 2,480 tons of sesame seed available for crushing are expected to yield 740 tons of oil.

In addition to being used for oil production, sesame seed is used in the preparation of bakery products. The entire production of tobacco seed and flaxseed will be available for crushing and is expected to yield 330 and 400 tons of oil, respectively.

GREECE: Estimated utilization of 1948 oilseed production

Oilseed	: Seeding	: Miscellaneous purposes	: Available for crushing	: Indicated oil supply
	: Short tons	: Short tons	: Short tons	: Short tons
Cottonseed.....	4,409	2,204	15,432	1,852
Sesame seed.....	1,102	4,685	2,480	744
Tobacco seed....	0	0	3,307	331
Flaxseed.....	0	0	2,756	413

American Embassy, Athens

INDONESIAN PALM EXPORTS
CONTINUE STEADY INCREASE

Exports of palm oil and palm kernels from Indonesia increased steadily during the first 8 months of 1948, reaching 8,660 and 2,083 short tons, respectively, in August, according to a report from the Consulate General, Batavia. Shipments for September were down due to the shortage of shipping space.

Palm-oil exports for the first 9 months of 1948 amounted to 21,672 tons, of which 21,037 went to the Netherlands, 537 to Sweden, and the remainder to China, Siam, India, and Pakistan. Preliminary estimates place October exports at 9,303 tons. Official exports for the calendar year 1947 totaled only 1,758 tons although shipments from Sumatra to Malaya were approximately 2,000 tons additional. Palm-kernel shipments for January-September 1948 amounted to 6,859 tons, practically all of which was sent to the Netherlands.

Both acreage devoted to palms and palm-oil production in the Federal District of Indonesia continued to increase during the third quarter of 1948 and at the end of September there were 129,134 acres planted, compared with 115,752 in June. Of this, approximately 128,339 acres are located in the East Coast and Palembang Districts of Sumatra and the balance in Java. Production of palm oil rose from 4,386 tons in June to 8,086 in September and palm kernels from 1,093 tons to 1,979 in the same period. Total production for the first 9 months of 1948 amounted to 37,348 tons of palm oil and 8,880 tons of kernels. It is officially estimated that the totals for the year 1948 reached 61,729 and 12,125 tons, respectively. Production in 1949 is currently estimated at 121,000 to 132,000 tons.

The greatest handicap to increased production is still the shortage of labor. During the latter part of 1948 the Government of the East Coast of Sumatra gave permission to labor recruiting organizations to bring in 3,000 Javanese workers, which is only a small percentage of the 30,000 additional workers needed on the East Coast estates. There is also a shortage of transportation equipment on estates, but the processing plants are still able to take care of current production. As production increases,

however, new equipment will be needed and new mills will be set up on the smaller estates which are now transporting their crops to the existing mills for processing.

Total stocks on estates and at ports awaiting shipment at the end of September amounted to approximately 15,270 tons of palm oil and 2,200 tons of kernels.

TOBACCO

CUBAN GOVERNMENT RESTRICTS 1948-49 SUN-GROWN TOBACCO CROP

On December 17, 1948, the Cuban Government issued a decree limiting the production of sun-grown tobacco to 60.86 million pounds. This figure is 25 percent less than the record 1945-46 crop but 7 percent more than the 1947-48 production.

No restriction is placed on the production of shade-grown wrappers and binders, but second-growth leaves or suckers in shade-grown areas must not be harvested.

The decree provides that all tobacco must be harvested by March 31, 1949, and that all stumps and excess plants standing must be destroyed within 5 days after this date. It also requires that tobacco growers grow garden crops on land made available by the restriction of sun-grown tobacco production.

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

CACAO BEAN PURCHASES BY WEST AFRICAN MARKETING BOARDS

As of December 23, 1948, the Gold Coast Cocoa Marketing Board reported purchases of 446,024,320 pounds of cacao beans from the 1948-49 Gold Coast main crop. This compares with total main-crop purchases during the 1947-48 season of 456,518,720 pounds. Inasmuch as main-crop cacao is usually harvested until March, it appears that the current crop will be substantially larger than the 1947-48 crop, as was forecast early in the season.

As of December 9, 1948, the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board had purchased 108,875,200 pounds of Nigerian main-crop cacao. Total main-crop purchases by the Board during the 1947-48 season were 154,060,480 pounds, of which only 50,451,520 pounds had been purchased by December 11, 1947. The 1948-49 main crop in Nigeria is expected to approximate 190,000,000 pounds.

CUBA'S CACAO PRODUCTION INCREASING

Cuba's 1948-49 production of cacao beans is forecast at 7.1 million pounds, which compares with 6.6 million pounds produced in 1947-48 and the annual average of 5.1 million for 1940-41 through 1944-45, according to a report from the American Embassy in Havana.

The larger production in recent years is due primarily to new plantings coming into bearing. It is now estimated that there are 10 million cacao trees in Cuba, 2 million of which have not yet reached bearing age. About 34,000 acres are devoted to cacao.

As a result of the larger crop this season, it is expected that there will be a surplus of about 1 million pounds of cacao beans at the end of the main harvesting season late in the spring. The surplus may not be exported, however, because chocolate manufacturers are in favor of building up stocks to prevent a recurrence of the recent scarcity which they attribute to the exportation of 830,000 pounds of cacao beans to the United States in August 1948.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

WORLD RICE EXPORT SUPPLIES INCREASE 1/

World exportable supplies of milled rice from the 1948-49 world harvest for delivery in 1949 are about 10 percent above the exports of the preceding year, according to a preliminary forecast of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. They are the largest since the war, and about one-half of the prewar average shipments.

Total availabilities in terms of milled rice are estimated at approximately 4,400,000 short tons compared with exports of about 4,000,000 tons in 1948, and with 8,700,000 tons during the 1936-40 average years.

The increase in rice supplies compared with the year before is due primarily to increased production and unexported stocks in the exporting countries of Asia. A near-record crop was harvested in Siam. Actual exportation during 1949 of the estimated surpluses of Burma and French Indochina depends to some extent on the settlement of political disturbances in those countries.

Total export supplies of rice in North America and Europe may exceed slightly the 1948 shipments. Those in South America, however, are expected to drop sharply below last year's exports. Deliveries from Egypt may approach the 1948 record.

1/ A more extensive statement may be obtained from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS

ON FOREIGN MARKETS:

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets, converted at current rates of exchange:

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the
U. S. gulf-port average

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1949	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		:Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good.....	1-6	: 99.05 lbs.	:Tallari	: 59.10	: 49.31
Ashmouni, F.G.F.....	"	: " "	: " "	: 57.10	: 47.64
Karnak, Good.....	"	: " "	: " "	: 97.80	: 81.60
Karnak, F.G.F.....	"	: " "	: " "		(not:quoted)
Bombay		:Candy			
Jarila, Fine.....	"	: 784 lbs.	:Rupee	: 620.00	: 23.86
Broach, Fine.....	"	: " "	: " "	: 650.00	: 25.01
Kampala, East African.....	"	: " "	: " "		(not:available)
Karachi		:Maund			
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine.....		: 82.28 lbs.	: " "		
289F Sind, S.G., Fine.....		: " "	: " "		
289F Punjab, S.G., Fine.....		: " "	: " "		
Buenos Aires		:Metric ton			
Type B.....	1-5	: 2204.6 lbs.	:Peso	: a/ 3350.00	: 45.24
Lima		:Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5.....		: 101.4 lbs.	:Sol		
Pima, Type 1.....		: " "	: " "		
Recife		:Arroba			
Mata, Type 4.....	1-6	: 33.07 lbs.	:Cruzeiro	: 185.00	: 30.44
Sertao, Type 5.....	"	: " "	: " "	: 190.00	: 31.26
Sao Paulo					
Sao Paulo, Type 5.....	1-5	: " "	: " "	: 207.00	: 34.06
Torreón		:Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16".....	1-6	: 101.4 lbs.	:Peso	: 181.50	: 26.01
Houston-Galveston-New					
Orleans av. Mid. 15/16".....	"	:Pound	:Cent	: XXXXX	: 32.15

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable. U. S. quotations from designated spot markets.

a/ Nominal.

BELGIAN COTTON TEXTILE
PRODUCTION MAINTAINED

Cotton mill consumption in Belgium continued to gain in October after a sharp decline during the past summer. Cotton consumption in October 1948 was reported at 34,000 bales, or near the 1947-48 seasonal average of 35,000 bales. However, this is still under the high level of early 1948 when consumption averaged 38,000 bales per month from January through April.

Imports failed to keep pace with consumption during the 3-month period of August through October and stocks were reduced by about 40,000 bales. Mill stocks were reported at 78,000 bales on October 31, 1948, which is still over 2 months' supply by somewhat under the level at which mill stocks have been maintained the past 2 seasons. Port stocks have not been reported since July 31, 1948, but on that date were only 12,500 bales.

Although the Belgians are not using ECA financing for the purchase of United States cotton, imports from the United States still exceed all other countries except the Belgian Congo. During the 3-month period August through October the Belgians imported 10,000 bales of United States cotton, 23,000 bales from the Belgian Congo, and the remaining 22,000 bales largely from Brazil, Peru, and Egypt. With supplies becoming tight in the Southern Hemisphere and India and stocks at a low level in Belgium, imports of American cotton may be expected to increase during the next few months.

Belgium exported from 40 to 50 percent of their cotton textile production in prewar years. Cotton textile production is now running about 20 percent above the prewar level and with domestic markets well supplied, Belgium must continue to depend to a great extent on the export outlets. Therefore, the future level of Belgian cotton textile production is dependent largely on a sustained export demand for textiles.

CANADIAN COTTON MILL
CONSUMPTION INCREASES 1/

Cotton consumption by Canadian mills averaged 30,700 bales (480 pounds net) for the first 5 months of the 1948-49 season beginning August 1, or about 8 percent above the same period in the 1947-48 season.

Textile mills plan to maintain this high level of production well into 1949. In most cases the mills report a large backlog of orders and cotton yarns and cloth has found a ready market. Domestic products are reasonably priced as compared to most imported goods, but local prices may be slightly raised to meet wage increases of 10 to 15 percent granted by several of the cotton firms. The labor situation is gradually improving.

1/ Based on a report by Roy O. Westley, Assistant Agricultural Attache, Ottawa, Canada.

Canada's imports of cotton yarn and cloth in the first 9 months of 1948 were only 50 percent of imports in the same period of 1947. Raw cotton imports have also been running about 15 percent under 1947. However, in the 3-month period, August through October 1948, Canadian imports of United States cotton increased and imports of Mexican and Brazilian cottons declined in relation to the distribution of imports during the 1947-48 season. In view of the tight supply situation in Brazil and reduced supplies in Mexico imports from the United States are expected to increase further in the next few months. During the period August through October 1948 Canada imported 29,000 bales of United States cotton, 19,000 bales from Mexico, and 3,000 bales from Brazil. Canadian imports by country of origin for the past 6 seasons and prewar are shown on the following table.

CANADA: Imports of cotton by countries of origin
average 1934-38, annual 1942-47
(Bales of 500 lbs. gross)

Country of origin	Average:	Year beginning August 1					
	1934-38:	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>bales</u>	<u>bales</u>	<u>bales</u>	<u>bales</u>	<u>bales</u>	<u>bales</u>	<u>bales</u>
United States	279	318	326	326	346	347	161
Brazil.....	<u>1/</u>	29	<u>1/</u>	10	15	21	41
Peru.....	<u>2/</u>	6	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>
Mexico.....	<u>2/</u>	7	6	26	40	32	150
Egypt.....	7	4	<u>1/</u>	1	1	1	5
India.....	1	2	2	3	7	3	2
Paraguay.....	-	4	0	0	0	0	<u>1/</u>
Nicaragua.....	-	2	1	0	0	0	0
United Kingdom...	<u>1/</u>	0	0	0	0	<u>1/</u>	0
Other.....	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Total	288	372	336	366	409	404	361

1/ Less than 500 bales. 2/ If any, included in "Other countries".

L A T E N E W S

(Continued from Page 21)

A recent Brazilian decision permits meat, meat products and by-products, which have been licensed for exportation to be shipped abroad from ports other than those in the State of Rio Grande do Sul. Previously meat licensed for export from the State of Rio Grande do Sul had to be shipped abroad from ports in that State. The new decision permits meats and meat products to be shipped coastwise by steamer to Santos, Rio de Janeiro or other Brazilian ports for reshipment to a foreign country, provided that upon clearing from the State of Rio Grande do Sul, they are cleared for final destination abroad.

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The British bacon ration, which reverted to 2 ounces per week for the 2 weeks beginning December 19 and 26, has been reduced again to 2 ounces per fortnight as from the week beginning January 2, 1949. Hope has been expressed that the reduction will be for a period of 4 weeks only, but this depends on future arrivals. To compensate for the reduction in the bacon ration, the meat ration will be increased temporarily by twopenny worth (3.2 cents) of canned corned meat for the weeks beginning January 2 and 15, 1949.

NOTE

Copies of the informational coffee study, Production, Consumption and Price Trends of Coffee, published as Foreign Agriculture Report No. 33, December, 1948, are obtainable from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture Washington, D. C.
